

ANNOUNCING THE 2016 UAA "ALUMNI OF THE YEAR" AWARDS PROGRAM

Background: In 2016 the UAA will continue to recognize significant contributions by USAID alumni. Since its inception in 2014, this awards program has honored five outstanding alumni whose contributions to their communities have inspired us all. The UAA Awards Committee is now starting its search for the **"2016 Alumni of the Year."**

Purpose: The **"Alumni of the Year"** awards are intended to recognize and celebrate new paths taken by USAID alumni to provide service to their communities and make lasting contributions to others.

Nominations: Many alumni deserve recognition and the UAA Awards Committee needs your help in identifying individuals whose post-USAID activities are truly exemplary and highlight the quality of our alumni community.

What are we looking for? In 2014, we began with the premise that one award would go to someone whose contributions were mainly domestic and another one to a nominee whose contributions were primarily overseas. We plan to continue with that premise. Nevertheless, over the past two years, the work of several nominees covered activities both at home and abroad - not surprising given the nature of our unique alumni community. The Committee will be flexible and, depending on the nature of the nominations, it may honor more than one person in each of these two categories (as we did in 2014) or perhaps honor two in one category and none in the other (as was the case in 2015).

Our community is scattered all over the U.S. and around the world. Hence, the Awards Committee depends on you to identify candidates for recognition and will accept self-nominations.

The list below provides examples of service that are appropriate for consideration. We are not tied to any of them and leave to the discretion of individuals wishing to nominate someone - or to self-nominate:

- Service with NGOs and other groups (profit or non-profit) that work closely with communities with special needs, at home or abroad or both. Examples may include legal services or advocacy for disadvantaged groups, foster parenting, medical service in underserved areas, etc.
- Service with groups that promote education (at any level), the arts and sciences (e.g., museums, community theatre, music appreciation, etc.).
- Support for civic programs of any kind (e.g., scouts movement or projects promoted by groups such as the Lions, Rotary or similar).

Most frequently, these services are provided on a voluntary basis. Nevertheless, we will not exclude nominations for individuals who are paid for the service they render as long as that service goes beyond the expected contributions and/or is not simply a continuation of the work the nominee was doing prior to separation from

USAID. The post-USAID contribution should reflect innovative service likely to leave a long-lasting contribution to the community (ies) and people being served.

Who can nominate? Anyone in the UAA registered alumni community may do so. This includes registered alumni, contributing members and members of the UAA Executive Committee. Only Awards Committee members are ineligible to nominate candidates.

Nominations format: Alumni interested in nominating someone (or to self-nominate) are asked to prepare a **brief description** of what the individual has been doing since leaving USAID and describe in a page or two (maximum) the innovative or transformative service of the nominee that merits recognition. It should describe the impact of the contribution and why it might be inspiring to others, particularly the USAID alumni community. Try to keep it simple. The Awards Committee will take it upon itself the task of verifying the facts contained in the nominations (including self-nominations) that stand out and merit further consideration.

Where to send nominations: All nominations should be sent electronically to the following e-mail address: [**awards@usaidalumni.org**](mailto:awards@usaidalumni.org)

Calendar: The Awards Committee will accept nominations between now and **July 31, 2016**. Nominations received after that date cannot be considered.

The UAA Awards Committee will review nominations and make final decisions in August and September. **The Alumni of the Year awards will be announced at the 2016 AGM in October.**

Winners will be notified in advance. Nominees are expected to be U.S. residents able to attend the AGM for public recognition. In the case of winners residing outside the D.C. area, the UAA may be able to assist with some travel expenses.

The UAA also will feature at least some of the nominations (including those which were not selected) in the monthly UAA Newsletters and in the Alumni Profiles section of the UAA website.

We ask everyone to consider nominating (or self-nominating) someone you know is deserving of this recognition.

UAA Awards Committee Members:

Frank Almaguer, Chair
Nancy Pielemeier
Diane Ponasik
Dianne Tsitsos
Elzadia Washington